

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KENNEDY PRESS CONFERENCE ON CHINA TRIP

SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE
IN HONG KONG JANUARY 9 FOLLOWING HIS TWO-WEEK VISIT IN
CHINA AS A GUEST OF THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS. FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY POINTS MADE BY KENNEDY
BEFORE SOME 100 REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL, U.S. AND
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA:

1. KENNEDY STATED HE MORE THAN EVER COMMITTED TO
HELPING MOVE FORWARD TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH PRC, AND HE BELIEVES CHINESE HAVE SAME DESIRE. HE
CALLED IT "A TRAGEDY OF HISTORY" THAT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND U.S. HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED
FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS AND SAID WE SHOULD NOT LOSE CHANCE
TO NORMALIZE, WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE 1972.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY NOTED THAT KEY OBSTACLE TO NORMALIZATION
IS FUTURE OF 16 MILLION PEOPLE ON TAIWAN. HE SAID HE
DID NOT EXPECT AND COULD NOT REPORT PROGRESS ON RESOLVING
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THAT ISSUE. HOWEVER, THE SENATOR SAID HE NOW BELIEVES
CHINESE HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE VIEW PREVAILING
IN AMERICA, WHICH HE SAID HE SHARES, THAT TAIWAN SHOULD
ENJOY A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE.

3. KENNEDY SAID THE CHINESE INDICATED THEIR CONTINUING
INTEREST IN MORE BILATERAL EXCHANGES, IN THE POTENTIAL

PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD FROM AMERICA AND IN
MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE ON IMPORTANT GLOBAL ISSUES IN
WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE A COMMON INTEREST.

4. HE NOTED THE U.S. AND CHINESE SHARE MANY PERSPECTIVES,
INCLUDING THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG AMERICA AND WESTERN
EUROPE AS WELL AS A SECURE AND PROSPEROUS JAPAN.

5. THE SENATOR SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE STRONG CHINESE
COMMITMENT TO MODERNIZATION AND CAME AWAY WITH THE SENSE
THAT CHINA CAN BECOME A MODERN INDUSTRIALIZED STATE IF IT
AVOIDS THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UPHEAVALS OF RECENT YEARS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, HE OBSERVED THAT CHINA REMAINS A CLOSED
SOCIETY WITH LIMITED FREEDOM.

6. HE SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS IN PEKING THE SUBJECT OF
THE VIETNAMESE-COMABODIAN BORDER FIGHTING WAS TOUCHED ON
PERIPHERALLY, WITH THE CHINESE NOTING THEIR INTEREST IN
SEEING THE DISPUTE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

7. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, KENNEDY SAID HE PERSONALLY FEELS
THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK IN THAT AREA IS THE REUNIFICATION
OF FAMILIES, AND THAT HE BROUGHT UP THIS MATTER WITH
EVERY HIGH OFFICIAL HE SAW IN CHINA.
POST HAS AUDIO CASSETTE OF NEWS CONFERENCE WHICH CAN BE
FORWARDED IF NEEDED. THE SENATOR HAS NOT SEEN THIS
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